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The Spongy Morning Herald.

FRIDAY JUNE 30, 1854

In the Legislative Council yesterday the COLONIAL SECRETARY proposed the consideration of the GOVERNOR GENERAL'S Message, No. 1, in reference to the purchase of a Colonial Government vessel, and said that the conveyance had originated in the difficulty of conveying supplies to Gabo Island, which has lately been discussed in the House.

Mr. MARTIN objected : first, on the ground that it was unnecessary ; and, secondly, that more efficient vessels might be purchased at a lower price.

Mr. MURRAY thought it below the dignity of the colony that she should not have one steam vessel of her own, and quoted a speech of LORD JOHN RUSSELL's, in which he affirmed that a matter in which the life or lives of British subjects were concerned, money was of secondary importance.

Mr. PARKES thought the time had arrived when one or two vessels would be necessary for the service of the colony, and was disposed to support any proposal, if it were brought up on different form, but he did not think the vessel required for the purposes stated.

Mr. COWPER thought it impossible that a vessel could be sufficient to ply between Sydney and Port Curtis, and to the other lighthouse stations on the coast, and was of opinion that the question of the necessity of a vessel for the purposes of defence might be considered by the Committee of the Volunteer Corps.

Captain KING suggested the propriety of a Depot at Twofold Bay, for the purpose of plying Gabo Island.

Mr. FLOOD anticipated that steam communication established between Sydney and Port Curtis, which would remove the necessity of any Government vessel in the quarter.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL said that the Government had no wish to press the motion, as indicated the Government from the charge want of candour, expressing his opinion that a steam vessel would be preferable for the purpose—even at a larger expense.

The motion was withdrawn.

Mr. COWPER moved that an address be presented to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL for a selected place of interment for members of the Church of England, and asserted that the cemetery in which such members could be interred was on the lands of a company who had a right to impose enormous charges, as did so.

After some explanation from the COLONIAL SECRETARY as to the causes of the delay in the completion of the general cemetery, owing the unsuitableness of the site.

that the question ought to come before the House in a more general form, and Mr. COWPER withdrew his motion, denying, however, that he was influenced by any intolerant feelings, having made the motion simply because the members of the Church of England had no voice or influence, without being subjected to enormous expense.

The House then adjourned until half-past two o'clock to-day, when the House will proceed to Government House to present to His Excellency the GOVERNOR-GENERAL the Address to HER MAJESTY on the Declaration of War.

On Wednesday evening an honorable member (Mr. HOLDEN) inquired, in his place, whether the Government contemplated any increase to the stipends allowed to the clergymen of the various denominations recognised by the law of the colony; and the COLONIAL SECRETARY is reported to have replied in the negative.

If the question was proposed with the view of opening the way for ulterior proceedings, we can have nothing to object to it; but if, as at present appears, it was proposed merely for the sake of eliciting information on the point of fact to which it relates, we must express our surprise that it should have been proposed at all. Had the honorable member taken the trouble of referring to a printed document placed in his hands a few days ago, he would at once have seen how the case stood. The official statement of the expenditure of the sum appropriated by Parliament for defraying the expenses of Public Worship would have shown him that, out of this source at any rate, no considerable or permanent augmentation of clerical stipends could possibly take place.

The amount appropriated by Schedule A, Part 3, of the Act 13 and 14 Victoria, cap. 65, is £28,000, per annum; and the amount actually expended last year, on this account, was £27,000, or just a thousand pounds below the whole sum. It is true there was brought to the credit of the year a surplus of £13,000 from the year 1852, making the total Ways and Means of 1853 £12,000; but after deducting from this total the arrears of salaries, &c., for 1852, and the outstanding charges for 1853, the actual balance unappropriated, instead of £14,025, as shown on the face of the abstract, was only £6,294.

It is clear, therefore, that had the Government contemplated any substantial and lasting increase to the stipends of the "recognised" clergy, they must have intended to supplement the Parliamentary Schedule by appropriations from the local Legislature. But no one had a right to suppose that any such intention was entertained. Every well-informed colonist must be aware that public feeling is daily becoming more and more adverse throughout these colonies to State endowments of religion, and that of this feeling no mean portion of the endowed themselves partake. The Government cannot but be cognisant of the fact, and, with such a fact before their eyes, they could hardly be expected to invite the Legislative Council to tax the General Revenue with additional subsidies for the support of public worship.

And yet, if the "recognised" clergy are to be maintained, we do not say in respectability, but with the ordinary comforts and decencies of life, additional subsidies, from some quarter or other, are absolutely necessary. Under the inflexible restrictions of the Parliamentary schedule, the salaries of clergymen are *steretyped*. No provision is made for change of circumstances. The sums are now just what they were before the discovery of gold, although in that brief interval the cost of subsistence has increased from two to three-fold. And just see what these salaries are!

Take the churches as they stand in the official statement. First, comes the Church of England. The Venerable the Archbishop of CANTERBURY has £460 a year, after a service little short of half a century. Forty-two clergymen in the diocese of Sydney receive in the aggregate £8319 16s. 4d., averaging less than £200 a year for each. Six clergymen are allowed £350 a year for rent, or about £58 per house; a sum for which, in the suburbs of Sydney, you would scarcely get a decent two-roomed cottage. There is an allowance for the "maintenance" of two boatmen on the River Hawkesbury (in clerical service), the said allowance for the two amounting to £39 10s. 10d. a year, or £19 15s. 5d. per man!

In the diocese of Newcastle, we find that the Right Reverend the Lord BISHOP received in the year £416 15s. 4d. Seventeen clergymen have £2970 16s. 0d. a year, being somewhat below £175 each. And two clergymen are allowed at the rate of £60 for rent.

Next comes the Presbyterian Church, twelve of whose ministers receive £1875 a year, equal to £156 each.

Then the Wesleyan Church, of whose numerous ministers *four* only are quartered on the State, receiving £150 per annum each.

Then the Roman Catholic Church. The Most Reverend the ARCHBISHOP has an annual salary of £500. Thirty-four clergymen receive amongst them £7369 a year, being scarcely £170 per head.

Such is the munificence of the State to those of her churches in New South Wales which choose to take "the benefit" of her Schedule. She places "ministers of religion" in positions of emolument, beneath her junior clerks, beneath the least skilled of our artificers, and, in some instances, scarcely on a level with our common day labourers! While in all other cases she admits that the only alternative is an increase of salary or starvation, and cheerfully takes the side of justice and humanity, in the case of her hapless clergy she sternly refuses to interfere, leaving them to grapple with their fate as best they may.

The inference is obvious. Since the State refuses to interfere, interference, liberal and prompt, becomes the duty of the churches themselves. The laity of this colony, including in the term those of all denominations, were never so prosperous as they are at the present day; while the State-paid clergy were never so poor. But, unfortunately, the laity of those churches which have been accustomed to lean upon the State for pecuniary support have become so inured to the *habit* of such dependence as to have lost sight of their own obligations to contribute of their substance towards all the just requirements of the sanctuary—and to contribute, not now and then, under fitful impulses, or when called upon by appeals from their brethren, but regularly, systematically, and in fitting proportion to the wants of the church on the one hand, and to the measure of their own worldly prosperity on the other. And is it likely that from this habit they will ever be thoroughly and permanently broken, until State support shall have been altogether withdrawn, or altogether relinquished?

OUR readers will remember that Mr. JARVIZE, in Bleak House, is continually enquiring why any disagreeable subject is broached or displayed, whether the east wind is blowing. We

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THURSDAY, Jth 29th.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at half-past three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

Mr. MARTIN presented a petition from a person named Fagan, setting forth his claims for allowance by the Government, and praying the House to give the same into consideration.

It set forth that the petitioner had been a member of the police force during a period of ten years, four of which he had been employed in the management of the wharves, and had been examined by Dr. Williams, and pronounced unfit for the House of the 1851, having been injured in his legs in the performance of his duties as watch-house keeper, but he did not quit the police force until some time after that he had been to the diggings, but finding that he had become unfitted for the house, and also learning that relief had been afforded from the Police Superannuation Fund to other persons who had retired from the service with the rank of sergeant, to those which he possessed, he had returned to Sydney, and applied to the Government him such relief as might be deemed advisable. The petition also set forth that the petitioner had a wife and six children.

The House agreed to receive the petition, and the honourable and learned member gave notice that on the following day he should move that it be printed.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table of the House a report of the Senate of the Sydney University.—Ordered to be printed.

CUSTOMS INDEMNITY BILL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in moving the consideration of the Governor-General's Message No. 2, relating to the Customs Indemnity Bill, said that the object of it was to indemnify the owners of certain goods which had been sent to Albany before the appointment there of a Collector of Customs.

The Bill had been read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday next.

LAW OF EVIDENCE BILL.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Law of Evidence Bill, which he explained was intended to place the colonial law upon the same footing as that of England and Wales. Before the House was an exact copy of the British Act of Parliament, and it rendered husbands and wives of parties admissible as witnesses, excepting in cases where the husband or wife was a party to the action of the Bill enacted that no husband should be compellable to disclose any communication made to him by his wife during the marriage, neither should a wife be compellable to disclose any communication made to her by her husband during the marriage.

The fourth section repealed part of the 16 Victoria No. 14.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through Committee; and the adoption of the report was pointed to stand an order of the day for Wednesday next.

FELONS BILL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of this Bill, which enacts that felons or other offenders convicted in the colony, and escaping from lawful custody, should be liable to be dealt with after his expiration of sentence. The Bill was required consequence of felons escaping and keeping out of the colony for a term of years, they were sentenced here, and then avoiding the law it stood at present.

The Bill was read a second time and passed through Committee, and the adoption of the report was pointed to stand an order of the day for Wednesday next.

CUSTODY OF INFANTS BILL.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL moved the second reading of this Bill, which enabled a Judge, under certain regulations, to make an order to allow a mother to have the custody of her infant, or to give the custody or control of the father or guardian. It further provided that orders might be enforced by process or contempt. The Act did not contemplate an order being made for access where a case of adultery had been proved.

The Bill was read a second time and passed through Committee, and the adoption of the report was pointed to stand an order of the day for Wednesday next.

POLICE DISQUALIFYING BILL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the second reading of this Bill, which was intended to disqualify officers of the police force from being elected members of the House, and taking part in elections. The honourable member said that he proposed to amend of a similar nature in another act, but owing to the Governor-General having prematurely given assent to it, it had no effect, and it was found advisable to amend the Bill, so as to include another clause, to stand as the first clause, to repeal the 16 Victoria, No. 32, which had been prematurely sanctioned by His Excellency.

The Bill was read a second time and passed through Committee, and the adoption of the report was pointed to stand an order of the day for Wednesday next.

CHRIST CHURCH TRUSTEES BILL.

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved the second reading of this Bill, and explained the nature of the Bill. The nature of this Bill had been previously explained, as it was not by any means a private Bill. The Government wished to take back a portion of land in George-street, which had been granted to the trustees of the Christ Church, and to give another portion of land instead, and it was necessary that an Act of Council should be passed to legalize such a change.

The Bill was read a second time, and appointed to be read a third time on Wednesday next.

MR. SLACK'S CLAIM.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the consideration of the Governor-General's Message No. 11, with Mr. Slack's claim to a retiring allowance was postponed until Wednesday next.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES BILL.

The consideration of the Governor-General's Message No. 3, with Common Lodging Houses Bill, was postponed on the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY until Wednesday next.

MILITARY TOLLS BILL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY proposed to withdraw the notice upon the business paper, for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee, because the Government would not be able to pay the tolls, which should defray the expense of the tolls sustained by the military, and this would be the best plan which could be adopted to remove the cause of complaint at present existing.

Mr. LOWER had no objection to vote for a sum of money sufficient to defray the toll demanded from his military, yet he thought it objectionable for the Government to make a permanent charge upon the honourable Colonial Secretary to put this proposal into effect, and he thought it better to refer the matter to the House to any vote on the subject.

Mr. CAMPBELL thought that the best plan would be to cause the removal of the tolls on the Southern Head roads; that on the upper South Head Road there was a toll, and that the toll on the road towards the distillery, if some agreement could be made for the purpose with the Trustees of the Road.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY announced that the cost of such a removal would be two or three thousand pounds.

The motion was then withdrawn from consideration.

PURCHASE OF A COLONIAL GOVERNMENT VESSEL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the second reading of the Governor-General's message No. 2, relating to the purchase of a colonial Government vessel. He said that a complaint had lately been made in the House, and an inquiry instituted relative to the purchase of a vessel by the Government. The Government in sending supplies to the light-houses on the coast, and the Government had consequently become impressed with the necessity for procuring a suitable vessel, for the purpose of visiting and supplying the light-houses, and for other purposes. The Government vessels along the coast, in reference to the paper before him, he ascertained that the sum paid by the Government for the purchase of the vessel for these purposes amounted to £1,000 per annum, and that the vessel was in communication with Gabo Island, Newcastle, Moreton Bay and Port Curtis, and other places. The annual cost of a schooner would be about £1,400, but a considerable price was demanded for the vessel which the Government contemplated purchasing. The Government fast-sailing schooner called "The Pride of the Seas," was offered for sale. It was in the harbour and belonged to an American House, which had given notice to purchase twelve days to decide whether the vessel could be purchased at £4,000, but more than £4,000. If afterwards the Government procured a steamboat as better adapted for the purpose, the schooner could probably be re-sold with little loss. It was in the case of an inferior description was bought, they might be able to get again for the purpose removed "1. That this Council having taken into consideration the Message of His Excellency the Governor-General No. 22, of the 28th instant, is of opinion that it is expedient to purchase a vessel for the general purposes of the Government, and for especially for keeping up proper communication with the light-houses on the Coast, at a cost not to exceed five thousand pounds. 2 That an address be presented to the Governor-General to that effect.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded the motion.

Mr. MARTIN condemned the conduct of the Government as disingenuous in coming forward with such a statement; by which they wish—**Hear, hear!**—to infer that £4000 was the permanent annual expenditure, when such was not the case. He found, upon referring to the statements of expenditure submitted by the hon. Colonial Secretary, that the greater portion of that expense had been caused by the opening of Port Curtis. The Government had sent a vessel to remain there for six months, solely for the service of the authorities at that port; but it was not to be expected that such expense would be necessary every year. It was very improper for the Government to come before the House with a demand for a sum of money based upon a statement so utterly untrue.

The **COLONIAL SECRETARY** remarked that he had only made a statement of the expenditure for that year.

Mr. MARTIN understood that the statement of the honorable gentleman applied to the permanent annual expenditure, and there was nothing to show that such was the case. The expense of supplying the lighthouse on Gabo Island amounted in the year to £200, and a sum of £200 was expended in supplying the lighthouse at Moreton Bay this year. He estimated a sum of £500; but the information afforded to the House by the honorable mover was insufficient to convey any accurate idea of the annual permanent expense. The honorable member had estimated the probable cost of chartering vessels for the service required to be performed on the coast, but the mode in which the Government had asked for the grant of money was very undesirable and improper. The Government ought to have stated the circumstances of its requiring a vessel in the *Gordon* (Gordon), and offers of more suitable vessels might be made. Unless the Government could give more practical information, it would be best to pursue the practice of coming to the House for an annual grant, for the definite purposes required.

Mr. MURRAY considered the argument of the honorable and learned member for Cook and Westmoreland very objectionable, viewing it entirely as a matter of pounds, shillings and pence; but considering the high opinion they entertained of the country, it was a pity that they had not a single vessel for its service. (**Hear, hear!**) Considering the state of affairs in Europe, and the possibility, if not the probability, of privations coming on the coast, it was a policy to be deficient of a vessel. Besides, if the Government possessed a vessel, such cases as that of the distress of the people on Gabo Island would be less likely to occur, than if the Government were enabled to supply their stations regularly. And then the sum of £6000 was insignificant when compared with the life of even the single citizen, and any objection raised against the motion on the score of expense, could be met by a similar answer given to the late John Russell in the British parliament to Mr. Cobden and other economists. They objected to the *Kafir* war, but Lord John said money was not worthy of consideration when the lives of British subjects were imperilled. The public welfare of the colony demanded that a vessel should be provided for it. The Government had no doubt very properly viewed the motion as one of necessity, and he should give it his support.

Mr. PARKES was not satisfied that the motion was such a one as merited the attention of the House. If the vessel was to be employed in the manner suggested by the honorable member for Goulburn, it could not also be made to serve the purpose intended by the honorable mover, of conveying provisions to the lighthouses. The same vessel, without it seemed to him to be improper any longer to be without a vessel for the safety of the colony, and with the prospect of a long and desperate European war, he should be ready to support any measure for providing a cruiser for the defence of the colony. The object of a measure brought forward as the present one had been, merely in reply to a charge of a defective arrangement made against the Government. The paper showed that \$500 was the annual expense for conveying stores to both lighthouses. Two or three men stationed at the lighthouse on Gabo Island, and he supposed there were only three on the other. When \$500 was voted for the supply of Gabo Island, he considered it altogether insufficient, but yet it was most unfair for the Government to come before the House with a motion for purchasing one of the finest vessels of her class to supply these stations. The moment a complaint had been made with regard to the neglect of the Government in the Gabo Island matter, a demand was made for this enormous sum of money; and he hoped the House would not countenance such a proceeding. He would not object to a motion for providing a cruiser from the neglect of the Government in the Gabo Island matter, but he did object, especially when enquiry into the necessity for such a vessel had been instituted entirely by persons whose interest or vanity influenced them. It was not fair that enquiries of such a nature should be made by people having an immediate interest in the outlay of the money, such as the Foremaster, who had now only the direction and command of two or three boats.

Mr. COWPER agreed with the hon. members who opposed the motion. There was a Committee sitting on a subject involving this matter, who could take the subject into consideration. The two questions as to the supplying the lighthouses, and the necessity of employing a vessel of war, were quite distinct. The present juncture of affairs must not be mixed together. He considered the proposal before the House a most extravagant one. He did not consider it would be possible to employ the vessel, as had been proposed, on both services. He proposed that the proposal was a most extravagant one. The Government should have begun by advertising for public tenders, and might then make a purchase afterwards. The expense proposed, £4000 did not cover the vessel's whole value, and they might reasonably expect in addition to that sum for stores and gear. A great deal depended upon what sort of scheme the Government had in view. The Government could go on with furnishing supplies to the lighthouses, either by a steamer or by a sailing vessel. If they thought that sufficient supplies had never been sent down to Gabo Island. (No, no.) There was no time when more than six months' supplies had been furnished, while there ought to have been twelve months' supplies at all times on the island. If they thought it better to purchase a vessel for the purpose suggested by the honorable member for Argyle, the question assumed a totally different aspect, and when the Government came down to that point to ask for a vote of the public money for the purchase of a vessel, his representative members would be happy to grant it. (**Hear, hear!**) A suggestion would be made by the Committee now sitting on the subject, and he would be sorry if the Government anticipated any movement of the Committee in the purchase of vessels. He was prepared to accede to a reasonable vote for a vessel for conveying stores to the lighthouse stations, but he had been informed by persons competent to give an opinion on the matter, that if the vessel the Government now proposed to purchase was not suitable, that she lay too deep in the water.

Captain KING thought the far better way would be to vote the money requisite where the question of furnishing supplies to the lighthouses was concerned. The House. It often happened that a vessel could not get to Gabo Island, and it was only a small vessel that could do so, and lay there, so as to be sheltered from the wind. Steamers on their passages to or from Melbourne, carrying large loads of supplies, could not possibly be done if they passed in the night time. Such a proposal as to supply Gabo Island in any such chance manner was quite out of the question. He greatly regretted that the lighthouse had not been placed on Cape Henry, which was a much safer and preferable course, as there was a certainty of communication. The only objection which had been made to that proposal was the expense. Many captains of vessels were of opinion that Gabo Island was the more desirable place, but he could not see how the Government remained unchanged on the subject.

Mr. FLOOD did not consider the motion which had been brought before the House did the Government any extraordinary credit. He thought the House ought to meet the matter with a dignified negative. He would call attention to the sum of £300 estimated as the amount of expenditure necessary for communication with Gabo Island. He had been informed, upon excellent authority, that the amount would not exceed £200 if tenders had been advertised for. Some hon. members having made complaints as to the supplies, the Government now thought it necessary to submit a proposal to the House, involving the unusual expenditure of £4000 for a vessel, and the expense of the necessary stores would add another £1000. Taking a view of all the features of the question, he did not think it necessary to recommend the Government to purchase the vessel.

Mr. CAMPBELL opposed the motion, which he regretted the Government had brought forward. If the Government had maintained on Gabo Island six months' supply of provisions, no deficiency would ever have occurred. The Government did not rely upon the motion as one connected with the service or protection of the colony, therefore the arguments which had heard were delusive. The expense which the Government proposed was much below the mark. This vessel would cost the Government £2000, and

state of the spirit trade.

At Lyons, the silk trade is at a complete standstill. The French silk manufactures, which were so successful in the Paris market, have been succeeded by a counter-revolution. The Government has been obliged to suspend the exportation of raw silk from Lyons, and the silk trade has been reduced to a few miserable manufactures. The finest American silks, which scarcely reached 30 francs per kilo, are now selling at 100 francs per kilo. The silk trade is at a complete standstill. The French silk manufactures, which were so successful in the Paris market, have been succeeded by a counter-revolution. The Government has been obliged to suspend the exportation of raw silk from Lyons, and the silk trade has been reduced to a few miserable manufactures. The finest American silks, which scarcely reached 30 francs per kilo, are now selling at 100 francs per kilo.

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(Signed) JAMES HENNESSY,
Cognac, 7th March, 1854.

Vintage 1851	Quotations:	241 fcs. to hectolitre
" 1852	together 250 "	
" 1849 260 "	
" 1847 280 "	
Elder, pale, and brown, at proportionate rates.		

* These quotations are equal to the following prices in London
viz.—

	s. d.	
1851	10 6	hectogaills.
1850	10 11	ditto
1848	11 6½	ditto

† Equal to—1849

	s. d.	
1850	11 6	hectogaills in bond in London
1851	10 6	ditto ditto

LONDON :—
These quotations are equal to the following prices in bond &c.
viz.—

	s. d.	
1851	10 6	hectogaills.
1850	10 11	ditto
1849	11 4	ditto
1848	11 11	ditto
1847	12 2	ditto

A MAN BROUGHT—Between nine and ten o'clock

Yesterday morning, 20th instant, Constable Noland was informed by some men in the Sugar Company's employ- ment at Canterbury, that the body of a man was lying in the water adjoining the premises, he, Noland, immediately went out and conveyed it to the D.D.-house of the Benedictine Asylum, where it floated. Awaiting an inquest—not being identified. It is the body of an old grey-headed man, low size, wearing grey coat and black trousers.

MUSWELLBROOK, JUNE 24.—Ever since Sunday, this morning (Saturday), with but little intermission, the river has been running steady rains, which have caused a great irregularity in the water level. The boat arrived here from Scone, on Tuesday, the 20th, and on the 22nd (Thursday) it got down at 1 o'clock A.M., vice 7 o'clock A.M. On Friday it was delayed by the force of the river at Singleton, and the heavens, and did not get down till 1 o'clock A.M. to 6 o'clock A.M. It is thought that of course it could not be so late, but it was not a break till Saturday morning, the 24th, with a plain proof at 7 o'clock P.M. It is much to be regretted that a proper substantial boat, instead of a crazy unsuitable one, is not provided and paid for by the company. A murmur is heard.

arise from the escape from an equally great benefit that must be sacrificed. But, if we are to be true to our own principles, one way, another thinks, and a third calculates—no one anybody does. What is every one's business, especially one's own? It is to go on, risking life, damaging property, and delaying the progress of the world, to chance some fatal adventure may cause a coroner to add to impetus to the idle vacillations and lukewarmness necessary to philosophy.—*Maitland Mercury.*

GLIOULI, June 22.—The constant rain during the last week has done much to break up the ice in the neighbourhood. The Namoi is now quite level and the ice banks, and is still rising rapidly. To-day the mail was obliged to stop at Wee Waa was compelled to return in consequence of the flooded and impassable country. The mails for Wee Waa and Waligwa will in consequence have to remain here till next week.—*Ibid.*

The King of Naples has become quite active, and has given two balls, the last in costume. The Court were dressed in the style of the age of Louis the Thirteenth, of France.

The Carnival at Naples this year has been a failure; the people have no heart for such things.

Mr. Thackeray is in Naples, whence he sends his monthly instalments of *The Newcomes* to delight his English readers; and Mr. David Roberts is also there, and is painting the interior of the temple of the Sibyl.

The new hill-pation five-franc gold pieces are the greatest faveur at Paris, especially with the ladies. A

artist has invented a tiny portemonnaie to be worn on the finger to contain these little pieces.

